



EMC News

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Coordinator's Report

The good news to report is that we have hired a new Environmental Planner/EMC Coordinator! Her name is Mikel Shakarjian, and she's currently a project manager with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (the equivalent of the DEC). We feel fortunate to have found someone of such high caliber to fill the position. Mikel has her B.S. in Environmental and Forest Biology from SUNY ESF, and a M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana. Her current job primarily involves working with local officials, scientists, and citizen advisory groups on watershed management planning for State-designated Scenic Rivers. She enjoys consensus building and educating people about the value and importance of natural resources. In the past, she has conducted research on issues such as the impact of river recreation on parts of Zion National Park, Utah, and the relationship between water quality and the potential impacts of land use. Please give her a warm welcome when you get to meet her at the May EMC meeting.

The EMC has received a copy of the Cornell Radiation Disposal Site Draft Feasibility Study Report and Final Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment. Donna Connery, project manager, says that the Feasibility Study report and the DEC's proposed remedial action plan for the RDS will be the topic of an upcoming, not-yet-scheduled public meeting and 30 day public comment period. The EMC will be informed when those dates are set. I will give these reports to the Environmental Review Committee at the March EMC meeting.

Submitted by Katie Borgella

Unique Natural Areas Committee Report

The UNA committee met on Feb 19 from 11:30 to 12:30 at the Plantations Building classroom and discussed the following topics. Present were Lynn Leopold, Nancy Ostman, David Weinstein, Donna Darling and Bruce Johnson.

1) Proposed North-South connector road through Monkey Run (UNA DR-31). David is already on an EMC subcommittee looking into this, but since it is in an UNA, the whole committee is interested. Nancy already represents Cornell Plantations interests in this area. She suggested that constructive alternatives to the roadway (better mass transit for example) should be actively encouraged as well as just trying to stop the proposed roadway. There is extensive mass transit discussion in the NESTS draft proposal.

It was also concluded that it would be useful to have an EMC member on planning boards such as NESTS to help avoid developing plans that endanger UNAs from the beginning. Some committee members will be attending the Public Information meeting on Feb. 25.

2) Nancy and Robert Wesley are visiting UNAs to revise their boundaries and accurately locate them on county maps. The committee discussed whether general location descriptions are necessary with the new excellent map locations. The committee decided that location descriptions were still useful to give an overview of site and place it in the context of neighboring sites.

3) Nancy wrote a letter to Katie at the Planning Department on the Culver Creek UNA (IT-23) that is up for County auction. She says the whole area need not require special protection as an UNA but only selected parts which she and Robert Wesley surveyed. We discussed asking the County to consider attaching deed restrictions, such as a conservation easement, to properties it wishes to auction, as a way of protecting the sensitive areas. This would be done on a case by case basis.

4) There will be no auction of the Six Hundred Road bridge because the County learned that the present landowners already own bridge.

5) Next UNA meeting will be on March 12, 11:30- 12:30, at the Plantations classroom.

Submitted by Bruce Johnson

Chair's Report

No Report Submitted

Environmental Review Committee Report

No Report Submitted

County Towers Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Executive Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Education Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Env. Directory Update Committee Report

No Report Submitted

NESTS Study Committee Report
No Report Submitted